

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Immigration Law Clinic

Students are immersed in the practice of immigration law and working with clients. Students learn the substantive law and procedure surrounding U nonimmigrant status, adjustment of status and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

What is the class component?

The Immigration Law Clinic is a class and is offered during the fall and spring semesters. It is a five-unit graded course. Grades are based on performance on class work and assignments, quizzes, casework, research and writing, and case management. There is no final examination. Professor Andrea Ramos teaches the class and directs the Immigration Law Clinic. The clinic is staffed by Southwestern law students who are enrolled in the course. Students are required to hold weekly office hours. Enrollment is limited to eight students per semester. The class meets once per week for two hours.

What types of cases do students work on?

The Immigration Law Clinic handles humanitarian forms of immigration relief. Under the close supervision and guidance of Professor Ramos, students represent survivors of domestic violence and other violent crimes in U Visa petitions and U-based adjustment of status applications, and represent children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases. Students do the work of lawyers and have full responsibility for their cases.



Working in a clinic is transformative. Students receive hands-on training and learn practical lawyering skills while working on real cases with real clients. They fully immerse themselves in the practice of law and handle all aspects of a case.

- Professor Andrea Ramos



Class Meets:

Fall semester:
Tuesdays, 1:30–3:30 pm
Spring semester:
Wednesdays, 6–8 pm



Weekly Hours Required:

15 hours/week



Eligibility Requirements:

- Good academic standing
- Complete first year of study



How will the Immigration Law Clinic benefit my education and career?

Students receive training to prepare them to handle real cases. Students learn core legal skills such as interviewing and counseling clients, fact investigation and case development, teamwork, writing skills, drafting legal documents, and the practical tools necessary to work on a case, such as time management and file maintenance. Students practice interviewing skills in mock interviews before meeting their first client and also learn the legal skills necessary to work on cases. Throughout the semester, students build their professional identity and judgment. They work under the mentorship of Professor Ramos, who helps students develop their full potential as advocates.



Did you know?

Professor Andrea Ramos is the founding Director of the Immigration Law Clinic and the Director of Clinical Programs.



Interested in applying?

Fill out the application form on the Southwestern Legal Clinics portal page at swlaw.sharepoint.com/sites/clinic or by scanning the QR code.

For more information about the Immigration Law Clinic, please visit www.swlaw.edu/immigrationlawclinic.

